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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

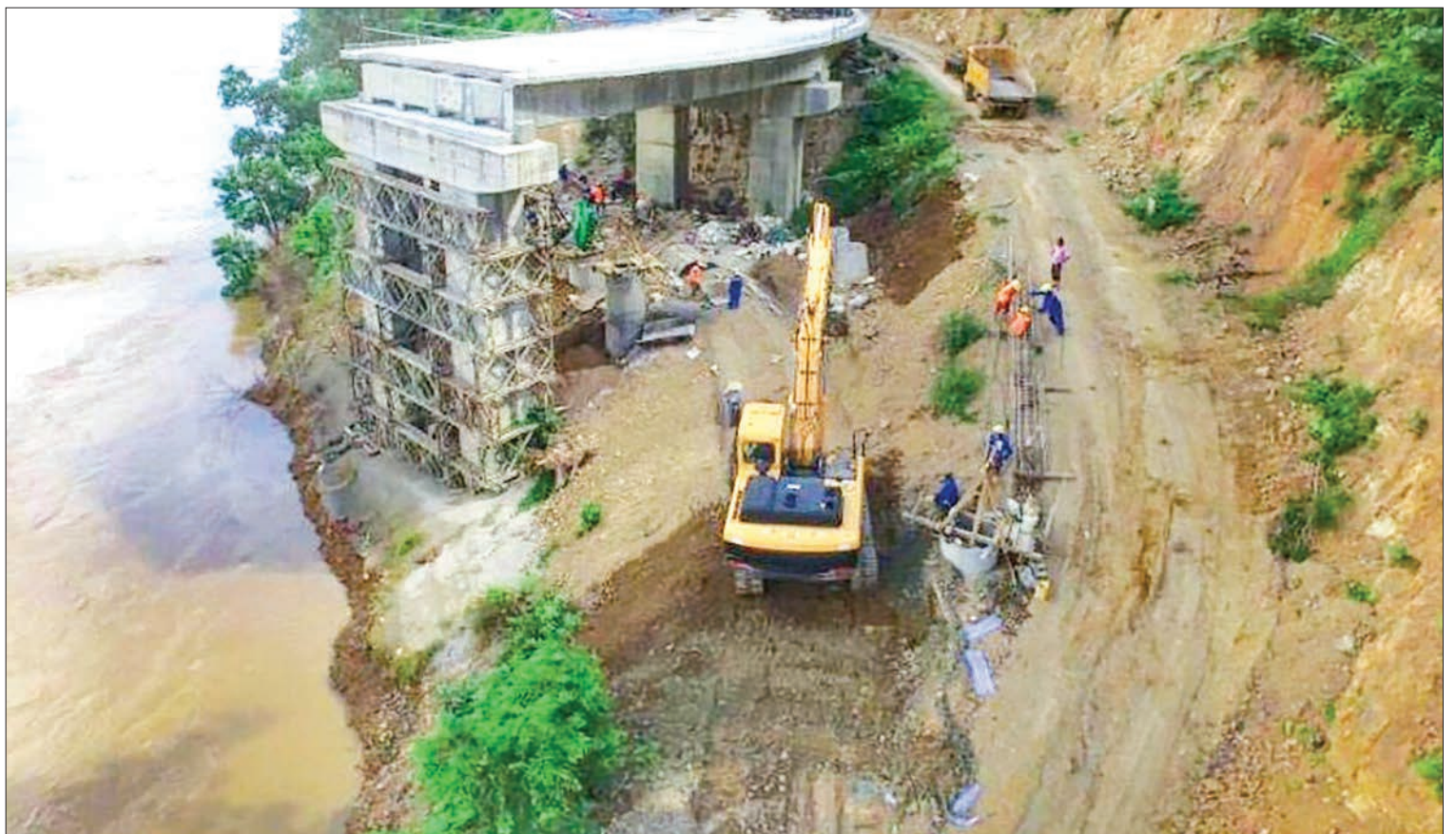
1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Construction of two-lane Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan) completed by 17%

THE Ministry of Construction is carrying out the construction of Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan) that connects Mongton Township in eastern Shan State and Mongpan Township in Southern Shan State, and at present, the construction of onshore bridge piles on either side of Mongton and Mongpan townships and pile cap work on two piers have completed by 17% of the construction of the whole bridge.

The bridge is located between Milestone No. 184 km and 185 km on the Namsang-Mongnai-Mongton-Mongsat road (NH-23), at about 300 feet away from the 900-foot-long one-way cable-stayed bridge across the Thanlwin River. The bridge construction is expected to cost 24,000 million kyats, and the No. (4) Special Bridge Task Force of the Department of Bridges is constructing it with 10 skilled engineers and 150 workers.

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Construction site of the two-lane Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan) linking Mongton Township and Mongpan Township in Shan State.

PHOTO : SOE MYINT AUNG

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Four civil special appeals passed judgement and 5 cases heard

A SPECIAL appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Maung, U Kyi Thein, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hone, was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed the judgement of four civil special appeals, No. 88/2019 (Sagaing), 92/2019 (Ay-

eyawady), 93/2019 (Ayeyawady) and 35/2020 (Ayeyawady).

In addition, a total of five special appeals, special appeal No. 98/2019 (Sagaing); 100/2019 (Taninthayi); 101/2019 (Mandalay); 102/2019 (Mandalay) and 104/2019 (Yangon), were heard following the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines.—MNA

Palm oil to be sold through Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association

THE Central Bank of Myanmar will sell palm oil with foreign currency equivalent to K3,700 per viss at wholesale prices through the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, in order to avoid a sharp rise in oil prices due to the recent rise in foreign exchange rates.

Arrangements are being made to avoid shortages of ed-

ible oils in the market, and to get price stability and consumer fairness, officials said.

Retailers and wholesalers who can sell the palm oil to consumers with no more than a two-per-cent profit margin can contact the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association starting from 20 September, according to an announcement released by

the association. The Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association is located at No. B / 81 – 82, Bayintnaung commodity warehouse, Gangaw Road, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

Interested person can contact the association at phone numbers: 09-444437295 and 09-401527049.—Myo Min Thura/GNLM

Myanmar welcomes 206 returnees from Thailand

MYANMAR officials warmly welcomed a total of 206 returnees – 110 men and 96 women repatriated from Thailand via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge in Myawady, Kayin State, yesterday morning.

Healthcare professionals and members of the Tatmadaw medical team carried out the COVID-19 tests, provided documents required for quarantine, and explained the instructions of

the Ministry of Health. Officials from the respective military commands and departments provided necessary assistance as well.

The returnees were transported to their respective homes by bus arranged by the township administration bodies, and those diagnosed with COVID-19 disease were sent to quarantine centres to provide the necessary medical and administration support. — Yasay (IPRD)/GNLM



Construction of two-lane Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan) ...

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The original bailey bridge has become old and can withstand only 16 tonnes of the weight limit of the vehicles passing through the bridge, making the trucks have to load and unload by small vehicles. Since there are delays in transporting goods by small vehicles, a new two-lane bridge with a load capacity of 75 tonnes is being constructed to make it easier for trucks carrying goods for the Eastern and Southern Shan States to pass through,

according to the Bridge Special Task Force (4).

The new Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan) under construction will be 266.861 metres long. It is a kind of Cable Suspension Bridge+ R.C Bridge and the foundations of the bridge are made of 1.5 metres diameter RC Bored Pile. The lower part of the bridge is RC and the upper part is Cable Suspension+ RC. The approach slab on the Mongpan side is 11 metres long and the other side is 54.861 metres long, water clearance will be



Aerial views (top and left photos) of the two-lane Thanlwin Bridge (Tahsan) under construction. **PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG**



189.5 metres wide and 8 metres high.

After the completion of the bridge, it will also facilitate trade in local crops and other products across the border, making it a key hub. In addition, Taunggyi can be reached through this bridge from Tachilek directly, without needing to go to Kengtung. Another border trade route is likely to emerge

as a trade route to Taunggyi could be extended through the border trade point on the Mongton-Pungpakyem road.

Projects for the construction of the new bridge began on 6 February 2019 and will be completed by 2023. The new bridge is expected to be completed by the end of March, according to the Ministry of Construction. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM.

Continuous learning will have an improvement in the education sector

SCHOOLS were closed for about two months. When the schools open, students will have learning opportunities. Continuous learning will have an improvement in the education sector, so emphasis must be placed on academic matters for the students. Management has been made not to delay the import of vaccines and medicines for COVID-19 and other necessary drugs.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting 2/2021 of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar made by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 7-9-2021)

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals held

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals was held by videoconference yesterday afternoon.

Ministers of Development Planning from the ASEAN Member States, Secretary-General of ASEAN, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein and officials attended the virtual meeting.

Indonesian Minister for National Development Planning Mr Suharso Monoarfa, Cambodian Minister for Planning Mr Kittti Settha Pandita Chhay Than, Deputy Minister for the Philippines Ministry of National Economy and Development Mr Rosemarie G. Edillon and ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi delivered welcoming speeches at the start of the meeting.

Then, the Ministers of Development Planning of ASEAN Member States discussed the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reducing adverse effects of COVID-19.

Officials also focused on the importance of cooperation between the Ministries of Development Planning and Development Partners.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Win Shein said that the economic development of ASEAN before COVID-19 was stable and stood as a major organiza-

tion in the region.

“In the past two years, the whole world, including ASEAN, has been affected by COVID-19. As almost all SDG goals have been affected by COVID-19, it is necessary to implement the strategies drawn up for each country and region.

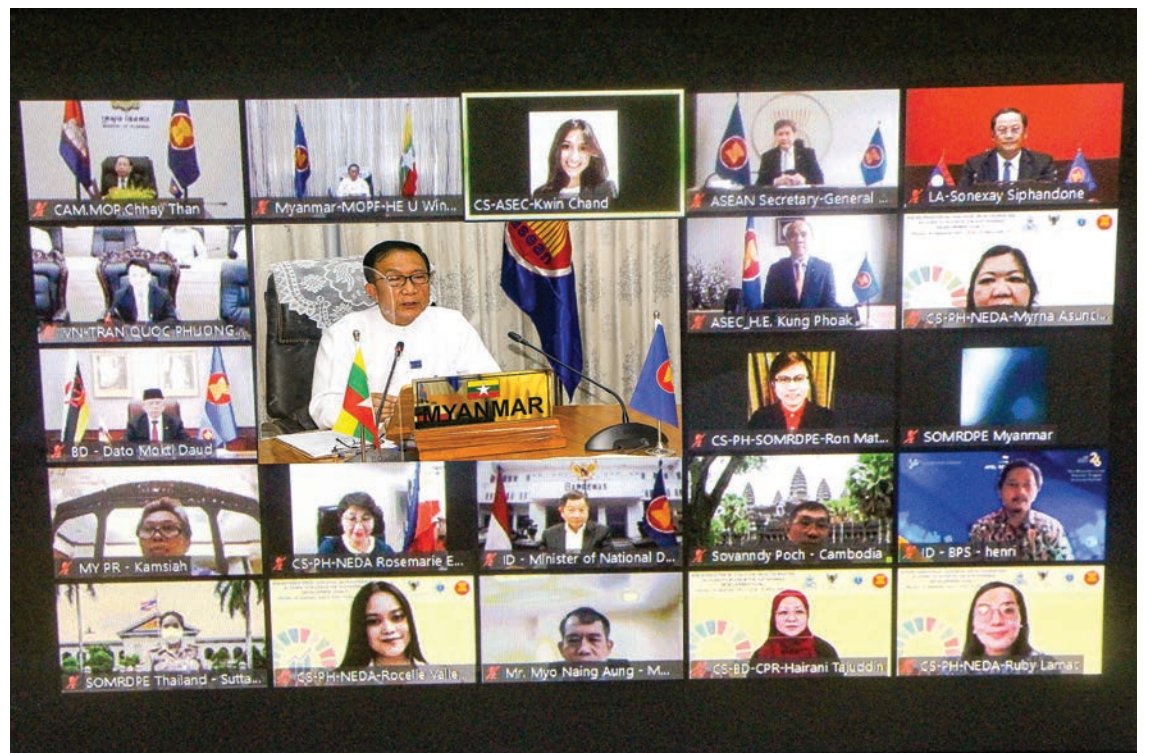
“ASEAN will implement various measures, including the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, by 2020 to address the impact of the COVID-19. It has been implemented since February.

“Most countries, including Myanmar, have drawn up remedial plans to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

“In implementing the SDGs, it is necessary to implement the 3R Model of Reopening, Recovery and Resilience based on ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, Complementarities Roadmap 2020-2025, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and 2030 Agenda for SDG,” the Union Minister said.

The Union Minister also said that not only the government but also development partners and the private sector have an important role to play in increasing private investment in public services and the implementation of the SDGs.

The Union Minister continued that Myanmar is now focusing on achieving the Sus-



The Union Planning and Finance Minister joins the online ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals yesterday.

tainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Along with the implementation of the SDGs, the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) is being implemented.

“Myanmar has drawn up the Myanmar Economic Relief Plan (MERP) to address the economic impact of COVID-19.

“The project aims to revitalize businesses, inviting domestic and foreign investment, facilitating business operations, and legal protection.

“The project is a medi-

um-term project that aims to build Myanmar’s sustainable and balanced development plan. The ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and GMS are linked to the VIS 19 Response and Rehabilitation Project,” the Union Minister added.

In conclusion, the Union Minister said that today’s meeting would identify key processes between ASEAN countries and potential development partners in raising funds for the implementation of the SDGs.

The Union Minister contin-

ued that through regional cooperation and economic recovery, recovery from the effects of the epidemic could lead to a better economy.

Next, officials from the Thailand, United Nations Commission on Social and Economic Affairs for Asia and the Pacific, International organizations from Columbia University, United States of America, and Development Planning Ministers from the ASEAN Member States discussed Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in each country. — MNA

1,585 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 September, total figure rises to 448,158

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 448,158 after 1,585 new cases were reported on 20 September 2021 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 400,168 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 17,129 after 56 died.

MoC facilitates imports of COVID-19 medical supplies, equipment



Medical supplies like oxygen cylinders (Photo) are daily imported via border trade posts.

THE Ministry of Commerce is working hard to ensure people have access to essential medical supplies that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, arranging the continuous importation by airways, sea and border trade zones.

Yesterday, a total of 40 tonnes of liquid oxygen, 3,867 liquid oxygen storage containers, 55 oxygen plants, 180 oxygen concentrators, 24 tonnes of masks were imported through the Yangon International Airport, ports, and the border trade posts in Muse, Myawady and Chinshwehaw.

The imported liquid oxygen and 53 oxygen plants were transported to Yangon and one each to Thazi and PyinOoLwin townships respectively. Two oxygen bowsers led to Yangon. It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is giving priority to the import of essential medical supplies required in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in line with the SOPs coordinated with the relevant departments in order to avoid delays, and announcements and notices related to the import of medicines and related products have also been made available to the public on the Ministry's website, commerce.gov.mm. – MNA

COVID-19 positive patients, patients to be monitored admitted to COVID-19 centres

COVID-19 positive patients and those required to be monitored are systematically admitted to Tatmadaw hospitals, military training depots and transit centres in respective military commands and are being provided with healthcare services.

In addition, officials from the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with relevant de-

partments, charitable organizations and responsible citizens, are opening quarantine centres in respective townships.

As of 7 pm last night, the Nay Pyi Taw transit received a total of 82 people — 48 men and 34 women, who need to be monitored, and Hline Township Transit centre admitted a total of 25 — 11 men and 14 women

COVID-19 positive patients.

Local medical teams and officials in respective military commands are assisting with the living, health and medical care of the patients, it is reported. — MNA

Covid test is carried out in one of the COVID-19 centres.



Over 55-year-old Bengalis receive COVID vaccines in Myebon Tsp



HEALTHCARE officials gave the first dose of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines to over 55-year-old Bengalis in Taungpaw ward, Myebon Township, MraukU district, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

Under the leadership of U Min Oo, Chairman of the Township Administration Body, health workers, general administrative staff, township police, township fire brigade, and ward administrator led by township medical

officer Dr Than Tun participated in the vaccination works. The Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines were given for the first time under the guidelines of vaccination for the target group.

The chairman of the township administration body and members visited the injection site and told the Bengalis who had received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to come and get the vaccine within the second set date. —Tin Win (IPRD)/GNLM

Inoculation drive is underway in Myebon Township, MraukU in Rakhine State.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

YGEA sets daily gold trading limit

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) curbed the amount of gold that investors can trade, and permits only 10 ticals for daily trading.

In recent days, some received purchase orders without physical gold in the domestic gold market.

As a result of this, YGEA urged its members to regulate trade in order to deal with market volatility.

To regulate unsustainable rally in the domestic gold market, the association called for the members to make gold transactions with only immediate payment, avoid the verbal transactions over calls and halt trading outside the Yangon region, according to YGEA.

The price of the precious yellow metal was valued at K1,828,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) on 20 September, while the gold price hit US\$1,745 per ounce in the international gold market. The exchange rate on the US dollar was around K1,970 on 17 September. The price of pure gold metal hit fresh new peaks in the



Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) curbed the amount of gold that investors can trade, and permits only 10 ticals for daily trading.

recent days and it reached the highest of K1,900,000 per tical on 11 September tracking the dollar gains on Kyat in the forex market.

In January 2021, the gold price was ranged between the minimum of K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6

January). It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February. In March, the rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March). The price was registered the highest of K1,455,000 (30 April)

and the lowest of K1,389,000 (1 April). The price reached an all-time highest of K1,709,000 (12 May) and the lowest of K1,447,000 in May. The price moved in the maximum of K1,575,500 (11 June) and the minimum of K1,543,000 (19 June). It fluctuated between K1,562,300 (26 July) and K1,587,000 (K1,587,000).

Last month, the price of gold reached the lowest of K1,572,800 (3 August) and the highest of K1,698,000 (31 September), the gold traders said.

According to gold traders, the local gold reached the lowest level of K1,310,500 (2 September) and the highest level of K1,314,000 (1 September). In October, the rate ranged between K1,307,800 (30 October) and K1,316,500 (21 October). The rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,317,000 (9 November) and the lowest of K1,270,000 (30 November). In December, the pure yellow metal priced moved in the range of 1,280,000 (1 December) and 1,332,000 (28 December).

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs in 2019, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 5 August), climbing to over 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a record high of K1,300,000 on 5 September 2019. — NN/GNLM

CBM sells \$144.8 mln in past eight months



In September, the CBM reportedly sold \$15 million on 13 September while \$8 million on 15 September at the foreign currency auction rate.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$144.8 million at its auction rate in the past eight months from February to 15 September, according to the CBM.

According to monthly sales of US dollars from February to 15 September 2021, the CBM sold \$6.8 million in February, \$12 million in April, \$24 million in May, \$12 million in June, \$39 million in July and \$28 million in August. But, there is no sale in March.

In September, the CBM reportedly sold \$15 million on 13 September while \$8 million on 15 September at the foreign currency auction rate.

The CBM is carrying out an auction for foreign exchange to reduce the fluctuation of foreign exchange rates in a short-term period and fulfil the needs of foreign exchange reserves.

Rules and directives have been set out for the CBM's auctions. Following these rules and directives, the CBM is trading the foreign currency through three State-owned banks, 19 local private banks and 13 foreign banks, which are holding authorized dealer-AD licences.

The local forex market's data showed that the dollar exchange rate touched the max-

imum of K1,345 and the minimum of K1,327 in January 2021. The rate moved in the range of K1,335-1,465 in February. It reached the lowest of K1,420 and the highest of K1,550 in March. The rate fluctuated between K1,550 and K1,610 in April. The rate fluctuated between K1,585 and K1,730 in May and it moved to the maximum of K1,595-1,620 in June. The rate stood at K1,625-1,645 in July.

In 2020, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In 2019, the rates are pegged at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December. On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit an all-time high of K1,650 in the local currency market. — Aye Maung/GNLM

High-quality medical supplies, primary food sold at reasonable prices in Yangon

TO meet the medical needs of the people in the Yangon Region during the third wave of COVID-19, and to get the right quality of medicines at fairer prices, the second exhibition was organized by Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association (MPMDMA) at the Myanmar International Trade Centre yesterday in Yangon.

The second-time wholesale and retail distribution of home medicines were held under the guidelines of the Yangon Region

government, with 12 companies distributing 168 types of medicines worth over K200,000.

The first exhibition of the essential medicines opened in Ahlon Township also sold medicines and related products worth over K100,000 on its 26th day, yesterday.

In addition, a mobile market organized by the Myanmar Rice Traders Association under the guidelines of the Yangon Region government sold rice, cooking oils, foods, meat and fish yesterday. — MNA



Let's collaborate on tourism development during COVID-19

BY Myint Myat Thitsar

IN countries around the world where tourism has emerged are generating foreign income from the display of natural beauty, traditional culture, ancient heritage and innovation of their respective countries. Tourism is regarded as a smokeless industry from which domestic people can make a living with job opportunities. In the global pandemic period, people in countries that are welcoming tourists with new tourist attractions under the COVID-19 restrictions are making foreign currencies.

In various parts of the world, tourism has declined since the beginning of 2020, and efforts are being made to get rid of the disease. Some countries in Europe and Asia are striving to revive the tourism sector in the COVID-19 period, with attractions for both domestic and international travellers. As soon as the global pandemic ends, tourist destinations across the globe will definitely be full of tourists, generating foreign income.

The government that wants to see the socio-economic development of rural areas as well as the national development has formed the Central Committee for National Tourism Development and adopted policies and guidelines for tourism revitalization and sustainable development of Myanmar's tourism industry.



Inside view of the over century-old monastery in Kyaukkachar village, Hopong of Shan State. **PHOTO: THIT SAR**

As well as domestic travelers of Myanmar enjoy beaches, they are especially fond of the mountainous nature and ethnic groups' traditional cultures and cuisines. It is until the COVID-19 outbreak that a large number of international travellers flocked to Myanmar due to the breathless natural beauty and friendliness of the Myanmar people. The reduction in the incidence of COVID-19 disease through na-

tionwide collaboration in the field of prevention, control and treatment will help boost tourism.

While the member states of ASEAN are holding a forum to revitalize regional tourism, Myanmar is also working on tourism development to revive the domestic tourism sector and is now implementing a rural-based "Tourism Village Development Project" in some regions and states. The project includes ru-

ral-based mountain tourism that will appeal to both local and foreign tourists. The project aims to develop a rural tourism sector that will attract tourists to the respective regions and states, including Shan State plateau.

Shan State is rich in tourism sources and was a major tourist destination for both domestic and foreign tourists every year in Myanmar before COVID-19. Therefore, the "Shan State Tour-

ism Village Development Project" was launched to address the decline in tourism in the state due to COVID-19. Initially, 10 ethnic villages are being developed to bring together the natural beauty of the mountains. These are Naung Bo Lotus Pond in Lu Yoe Taung village, Taunggyi; Ancient Monastery in Kyaukkachar village in Hopong; Shan rice cultivation and traditional Shan food house along the waterway from Kakku Pagoda in Pan Lon village in Hsihseng; Yay Pyar Eain (blue water pond) and waterfall in Taw Kyel village in Pindaya; cloud sea in Kyauk Taw village in Nawngkhio; Akha Ethnic Village in Hokyin village in Kengtung; Akha Ethnic Village in Hweyone village in Tachilek; Yinn Ethnic Village in Kone Lan village in Namsang; Ancient Monastery in Loilem village in Mongnai and Palaung Ethnic Village in Sai Moon Village in Kunhing. Each village is being developed at a cost of K80 million from the fund of the Shan State government's 2020-2021 financial year.

Respective Township General Administration Departments will be involved in constructing of infrastructure development, and the Shan State Hotels and Tourism Directorate will conduct tourism marketing and provide tourism training. Village-based tourism infrastructure, such as



Over a century-old monastery in Hopong, Shan State. **PHOTO: THIT SAR**

access to village water, rural road repair, construction of toilets, jefties and parking lots, souvenir shops, information centre, setting up traditional handicrafts and local food showrooms, viewpoints, landfills, will be included in the infrastructure development works.

The tourism training also includes COVID-19 disease prevention and safety pieces of training for the villagers, as well as tourism source development training for the villagers, such as basic tourism training, first aid training, village youth photography training, environmental conservation training, traditional food production training, systematic waste disposal training, series of training for 3D photos and video shooting



Natural fall in Taw Kyel village in Ywangan Town of Shan State. PHOTO: THIT SAR



Shan ethnics are seen with the beauty of Naung Bo Lotus Pond.



Akha damsels from Hweyone village in Tachilek.

required in marketing tourism, publishing maps and pamphlets.

These rural-based tourism villages will surely support the speedy growth of the country's tourism industry in the post-COVID-19 period, providing income and job opportunities as well as the socio-economic development of the State and local people. The benefits of increasing the desire to preserve the traditions and culture, and spreading tourism from urban to rural areas and the development of rural tourism through the use of tourism resources, will also be gained.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some countries across the world are developing tourism, and Italy which is famous for its cultural and historical heritage is also included. In a town located in the southern part of Italy, a special tour programme

is being implemented which allows tourists to stay in the houses of the local people for free. They explain to the tourists the background history, traditions and culture, and literature of the town. This tour programme also includes the moment to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and the sea in the town. International tourists were invited online and more than 8,000 travellers across the world including Asia applied for it. Italy implemented the special tour programme with a total of 250 international tourists for the first time. Since it gained success, the country is now developing new tourist attractions along with the COVID-19 restrictions.

The warm welcome of the locals, free accommodation in designated housing, once-a-week local dinners with unique cuisine are seen as an innovative

tourism success for both foreign and host countries.

As a unique country with coastal, plain, and mountainous regions, in addition to the abundance of natural resources, cultural and historical heritages, Myanmar has many opportunities to revive tourism in the same way as the rest of the world. I, hereby, encourage everyone in the regions and states where the "Tourism Village Development Project" is being implemented to participate in the tourism development activities during the COVID-19 period so that local people can have opportunities to make a living as well as can generate foreign income from the tourism industry in the post-COVID-19 period.

(Translated by GNLM)



A natural blue water pond in Taw Kyel village in Ywangan, Shan State. PHOTO: THIT SAR

Conserve natural environment in process of development undertakings

THE development of the country is directly proportionated to the loss of the natural environment. As undertakings to develop the nation may bring loss and damage to the environment, efforts should be made for minimizing the loss and waste in the development process as much as possible.

Section 45 of the State Constitution stipulates that the Union shall protect and conserve the natural environment. Likewise, Section 390 (b) states that every citizen has the duty to assist the Union in carrying out the following matters: environmental conservation.

Although the State adopted a firm pledge to conserve the natural environment inserted into the Constitution, a total of 180 global countries assessed that Myanmar stood the 138th position

Myanmar must march forward to achieve success in the proper environmental conservation for raising national interests. A master plan should be adopted for conservation of the natural environment to be able to minimize the loss and damage in making utmost for development of the nation.

in the standing of properly abiding by the national level environmental policies. That is why all the national people need to expedite the much effort for following the policies of environmental conservation.

The area of the natural environment is shrinking more and more in the excavation of jade, gems, gold and minerals as well as timber extraction in addition to the expansion of urban and rural areas and construction of roads, bridges and buildings. As a result, the people are facing impacts of climate change and overheat situation based on deforestation, dryness of water sources and silting in rivers and creeks.

For example, it is regrettable that the deforestation in watershed areas and dryness of springs cause the decline of water level in the famous Inlay Lake of Shan State and the National Kandawgyi Garden in PyinOoLwin Township. Such events give a green light to systematically take environmental conservation measures.

Not only the government but the people need to take care of removing the debris which may cause impacts on the environment. The entire people should not ignore the possibilities of environmental degradation based on undisciplined disposing of, misuse of fertilizers and chemicals, improper emission of smokes, reckless acts of loudly decibel sounds, too much storage of water in unnecessary areas as well as expansion of residences and cultivable lands.

Myanmar must march forward to achieve success in the proper environmental conservation for raising national interests. A master plan should be adopted for conservation of the natural environment to be able to minimize the loss and damage in making utmost for development of the nation.



Vaccine nasal sprays aim

The World Health Organization says clinical trials for nasal spray vaccines th

COULD delivering COVID-19 immunity directly to the nose – the area of the body via which it is most likely to be transmitted – help conquer the pandemic?

The World Health Organization (WHO) says clinical trials are underway to evaluate eight nasal spray vaccines that target COVID-19.

The most advanced effort so far by China's Xiamen University, the University of Hong Kong and Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy has completed phase-2 trials.

“When the virus infects someone, it usually gets in through the nose,” said researcher Nathalie Mielcarek who is working with the Lille Pasteur Institute to develop a nasal spray vaccine against whooping cough.

“The idea is to shut the



A laboratory worker tests a nasal spray at the Pharma and Beauty factory in S on 21 January 2021. PHOTO: AFP

door.”

An article published in Scientific American in March urged developing nasal spray vaccines because they have an immediate

effect on the virus in an infected person's mucus.

An antibody known as immunoglobulin A

There they trigger produc-

Refugees face dire consequences from C

Low-income countries also have the least resilient health systems and the greatest needs of their own populations, before adding

UNDERFUNDING has left a “yawning gap” in the UN Refugee Agency's ability to protect forcibly displaced people worldwide from the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNHCR said on Friday. The emergency tops their list of the 10 most underfunded situations in 2021. Only one-third of the budgeted requirements of \$924 million has been received, according to UNHCR's Chief of Public Health Section, Ann Burton, who called for more global attention and funding support.

Host States hit hardest

Ms Burton emphasized that “vaccine inequity continues to hit the hardest in many refugee-hosting states”. 86 per cent of refugees are hosted in developing countries, however, some 80 per cent of all vaccine doses have been given in high- and upper-middle-income countries, she noted.

Low-income countries also have the least resilient health sys-

tems and are struggling to cope with the needs of their own populations, before adding the extra needs posed by hosting refugees.

Ms Burton echoed calls by UN Agencies for States to share excess doses with COVAX to address the global vaccine inequity and avoid prolonging the pandemic. While “very encouraged” by the vaccine rollout for refugees by hosting states Ms Burton warned that many barriers to vaccine access remain.

She reiterated that UNHCR is ready to support states overcome some of these barriers if they have the means to do so, for example “by creating information materials in refugee languages suitable for low literacy levels”.

Economic repercussions

Ms. Burton pointed out that the pandemic has hurt forcibly displaced and stateless people in ways that “reach far beyond the risk posed by the virus” itself. Failure “to adequately fund

the response only deepens their plight,” she added.

The economic repercussions of the pandemic have led their business and workplaces to close, with their “precarious livelihoods often the first to go”. Forcibly displaced people often do not have access to measures such as distance learning for schoolchildren or subsidies to offset the economic impact provided by governments.

This has meant that people cannot afford to pay rent or afford daily necessities, such as food, which in turn increases the risk of exploitation and gender-based violence, she warned, before reiterating a call for States to include refugees in national social safety nets and for donors to support UNHCR help fill that gap.

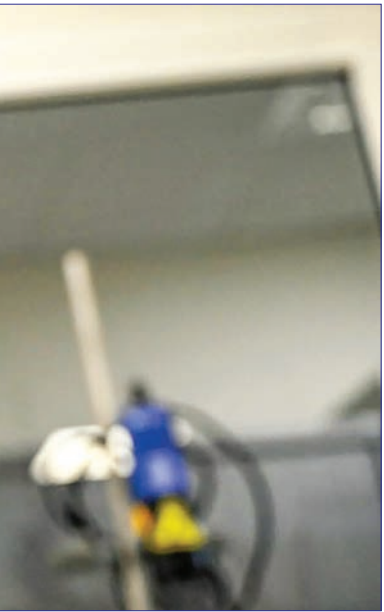
\$74 million funding shortfall

UNHCR's COVID-19 response covers every region and a whole spectrum of needs, Ms Burton said.

At the end of August, they

...to 'shut door' on COVID

...al trials are underway to evaluate eight na-
...at target COVID-19.



...aint-Chamas, south eastern France,

...tion of an antibody known as
immunoglobulin A, which can
block infection.

...“This overwhelming re-
sponse, called sterilising im-

...munity, reduces the chance that
people will pass on the virus,”
said the article.

...The vaccines currently
available offer strong protection
against severe forms of COV-
ID-19 but are less reliable at pre-
venting the spread of the virus.

...Stimulating immunity di-
rectly in the nose “lowers the
risk of infecting other people”,
said Mielcarek.

...“From there you have less of
the virus infecting the lungs and
so fewer severe cases since the
viral load is lower,” she added.

...An article published in
March by Gavi the Vaccine Al-
liance noted other advantages,
including the fact that the sprays
don't need refrigeration and
don't need to be administered
by health professionals.

...“People would be able to
self-administer them at home,”
the article says, adding “they are

...likely to be more popular for the
millions of people who don't like
needles”.

A French study on mice

...And in a French study on
mice presented last week, 100
percent of subjects vaccinated
with the spray survived infection
by COVID-19 while all unvacci-
nated mice died.

...“The vaccinated animals...
showed low levels of the virus so
they are not contagious anymore
– that's one of the advantages of
the nasal spray,” Philippe Mau-
guin, CEO of the French institute
that hopes to patent the vaccine
said.

...Isabelle Dimier-Poisson who
led the research has high hopes.

...“It could allow us to get back
to life before the pandemic, with-
out social distancing, and with-
out masks,” she said.

SOURCE: AFP

COVID-19 underfunding, UNHCR warns

...health systems and are struggling to cope with the
...g the extra needs posed by hosting refugees.



An Afghan refugee is vaccinated for COVID-19 at the at the Red Crescent Mass Vaccination Centre in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. PHOTO: UNHCR/ASIF SHAHZAD

...met a shortfall of \$74 million in
cash assistance, and smaller “but
significant gaps” in funding to
alleviate the pandemic's impact
on primary health care, primary
education, and services for people

...with specific needs.

...Pointing out that forcibly dis-
placed people constitute one per
cent of the world's population, she
warned that on health grounds
alone, failing to integrate them

...into the global pandemic response
would be “reckless.” But it was
“not too late” to channel funds
to where they are most urgently
needed, she added.

SOURCE: UN

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 20 September 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21 September, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi Region and Southern Shan, Mon States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw and isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (4- 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September, 2021: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September, 2021: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 September, 2021: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 10:30 hour M.S.T.)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (18) miles west of Sedoktara), latitude 20.43°N, longitude 93.97°E, depth (27) kilometers, about (74) miles east-northeast of Sittwe seismological observatory was recorded at (10)hr (01)min (43)sec M.S.T on 20 September, 2021.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ ဖြန့်ဖြူးပေးသူ အကယ်ဒမီ ဦးကျော်စွာ

09 454 237 515

Japan ranks Myanmar third-largest export country this FY

THE value of trade between Myanmar and its development partner Japan exceeded over \$1.049 billion in the current FY and Japan is placed as Myanmar's third-largest export partner, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

Myanmar's exports to Japan in the past ten months (October-July) of the current financial year 2020-2021 touched about US\$768 million while import was valued at only \$281.4 million, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's export items to Japan are garments, marine products, rice, black sesame, green gram, rubber and other products. In return, it imported machines and machine equipment, electronic equipment,



Myanmar's export items to Japan are garments, marine products, rice, black sesame, green gram, rubber and other products. In return, it imported machines and machine equipment, electronic equipment, fertilizers, chemical products, medicines, automobiles, and other products.

fertilizers, chemical products, medicines, automobiles, and other products. Bilateral trade values have registered \$1.92 billion in the last FY2019-2020, \$1.89 billion

in the FY2018-2019, \$1 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period, \$1.92 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$2 billion in the 2016-2017FY and \$1.84 billion in the 2015-16FY, respectively.

This FY, three enterprises from Japan were approved to make initial investments of \$518 million into the country, according to the data of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Japan has made up over 34.7 per cent of total FDI in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) offers loans such as ODA loans and two-step loans intending to bring about socio-economic development in Myanmar. — KK/GNLM

Sugar price remains in bull market



The sugarcane growers are receiving a good price of K55,000 per tonne for now.

THE price of sugar has spiked since April-end, on account of the low stockpile and Kyat weakening against the US dollar in the local forex market.

The sugar fetches K1,750 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms or 3.6 pounds) at present. After the sugar cane off-season, the price is gradually increasing in the domestic market. Moreover, some traders manipulate the price on low stockpiles, according to Mandalay wholesale market.

Last year, the low demand forced some sugarcane growers to turn to other crops for cultivation.

The sugarcane growers are receiving a good price of K55,000 per tonne for now.

The stock of sugar has become lesser. Additionally, sugar import is rarely found in the meantime. Sugar price has surprisingly risen this year in the international market. The domestic sugar market also sees the price rise accordingly, the Sugar

and Sugarcane Related Products Association stated.

Sugarcane covered 438,420 acres in the country last year from 2019-2020. Myanmar's sugar production was reduced by about 100,000 tonnes this year, the Agriculture Department stated.

Myanmar produced about 450,000 tonnes of sugar from 440,000 acres of sugarcane plantations in the 2014-2015 financial year, over 390,000 tonnes from 390,000 acres in the 2015-2016 FY, over 370,000 tonnes from 400,000 acres in the 2016-2017 FY, over 500,000 tonnes from 400,000 acres in the 2017-2018 FY, and 500,000 tonnes from 500,000 acres in the 2018-2019 FY.

Sugar cane prices were pegged at over K50,000 per tonne in the 2015-2016FY, K45,000 in the 2016-2017FY, K41,500 in the 2017-2018FY, K38,000-40,000 in the 2018-2019FY and K40,000 in the last FY2019-2020, according to the news released online by the Ministry of Commerce.— KK/GNLM

Myanmar's foreign trade value drops by \$7.39 bln this FY

MYANMAR'S foreign trade value hit over US\$27.151 billion till 3 September in the current financial year 2020-21, declining by \$7.39 billion when compared to the same period of last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The foreign trade value was \$27.151 billion from 1 October 2020 to 3 September 2021, while the previous FY saw over \$34.55 billion in the same period. During these periods, there was a decline of over \$7.39 billion.

During 10 months of this FY, China topped the list of the 10 Myanmar's exported

countries with \$4,408.30 million, followed by Thailand with \$2,548.12 million, the Ministry's figures said.

In 2019-2020 FY, Myanmar exported goods worth US\$3,985.06 million to China, US\$2,091.81 million to Thailand, US\$673.87 million to Japan, US\$485.50 million to India, US\$434.67 million to the US, US\$261.71 million to Germany, US\$245.75 million to the UK, US\$233.48 million to Spain, US\$203.72 million to the Netherlands and US\$198.29 million to South Korea, according to the data from the commerce ministry.

The value of Myanmar's trade with China through maritime and sea trade channels totalled over \$12.13 billion in October and September of the 2019-2020 financial year, including \$5.4 billion worth of exports and \$6.7 billion for imports, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

China is Myanmar's largest trading partner and its second-largest source of investment. Business centres will be established in Myanmar and China to promote trade and investment, according to the Ministry. — ZYA/GNLM



The foreign trade value was \$27.151 billion from 1 October 2020 to 3 September 2021, while the previous FY saw over \$34.55 billion in the same period. During these periods, there was a decline of over \$7.39 billion.

India says Covid vaccine exports to restart in October

INDIA will resume exporting Covid-19 vaccines from October, five months after it halted sending supplies overseas as it battled a deadly wave of infections, the health minister said Monday.

The South Asian giant, dubbed the “pharmacy of the world”, was a major supplier to the Covax programme aimed at boosting immunisation in poorer nations.

Exports stopped in April, according to foreign ministry data, when a virus surge in India pushed the healthcare system to

breaking point and there was a huge demand for jabs.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said more than 300 million vaccine doses would be produced in October and one billion in the last three months of the year.

“India will be resuming export of vaccines— in order to fulfil the commitment of India towards Covax,” Mandaviya said in a statement.

“The surplus supply of vaccines will be used to fulfil our commitment towards the world for the collective fight against

Covid-19.”

Launched in January, India’s vaccination campaign was slow to take off because of shortages and hesitancy among the population.

But the pace has picked up in recent weeks, with authorities currently administering between five to eight million coronavirus shots every day.

The country hit a record 22 million coronavirus jabs in a day on Friday as part of a special vaccination drive for the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. — AFP ■



A health worker prepares a dose of Covishield vaccine against the Covid-19 coronavirus at a vaccination camp set up inside a railway station in Chennai on 19 September 2021. PHOTO: ARUN SANKAR / AFP

After virus-hit Olympics, public split over future games in Japan



People gather outside the National Stadium during the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics on 8 August 2021. The ceremony was held without spectators from the general public amid the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

THE Japanese public appears split over hosting the Olympics again in the future, while nearly 40 per cent of respondents think it was good that the Tokyo Games went ahead despite COVID-19, a private-sector survey recently showed.

The online survey by the Nomura Research Institute also found around 45 per cent of respondents in Tokyo and its nearby areas, where most competition venues were located, said it was “the right move” to hold the games without spectators.

The spread of COVID-19 posed a daunting challenge to the organizers who ran the Olympics from 23 July to 8 August despite public opposition and concern that it would become a superspreader event. Foreign spectators were barred.

Asked if Japan should

host the Olympics again in the future, 36.3 per cent in the survey covering 3,564 people were positive about the prospect while 36.0 per cent were negative. Some 27.7 per cent were neither for nor against Japan hosting the games again.

The games’ organizers and the Japanese government sought to reassure a wary public by promising to deliver a “safe and secure” games. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who had faced a barrage of criticism for his government’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic, is stepping down later this month amid plunging public support.

A combined 38.8 per cent said it was “very good” or “good” that the Olympics were held, while 30.5 per cent said the games should have been cancelled.

Corporate sponsors also

had hard times deciding how to position themselves amid concern about potential reputational damage. In Japan, Toyota Motor Corp, a top-tier sponsor, decided not to air TV commercials related to the Olympics. Company presidents also refrained from attending the opening ceremony as whether to go ahead with the games remained a divisive issue.

The Nomura survey carried out on 24 July and 8 August found no significant change in public perceptions of corporate sponsors before and after the Olympics.

Before the major sporting event, 49.9 per cent had favourable perceptions, while 50.2 per cent had negative ones. The corresponding figures were 48.8 per cent and 51.2 per cent after the Olympics, respectively. — Kyodo News ■

UK government holds emergency meeting over gas prices

THE UK government held an emergency meeting with energy and consumer groups on Monday as the country experiences record gas prices that threaten households with huge bills and suppliers’ futures.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson sought to reassure over the prospect of consumers being hit by surging power bills this coming winter and the possibility of more small British energy firms collapsing from higher costs.

Faced with a fast-moving situation, Britain’s Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng was holding a roundtable with the energy industry and consumer groups.

Speaking during a visit to the United States, Johnson said “people should be reassured in the sense that yes there are a lot of short-term problems not just in our country— but around the world caused by gas supplies and shortages of all kinds”.

“We’ve got to try and fix it as fast as we can, make sure we have the supplies we want, make sure we don’t allow the companies we rely on to go under. We’ll have to do everything we can,” British media reported him as also saying.

Prices of natural gas in Britain have hit record highs, also after a fire knocked out a vital point connecting the country’s power grid to France. — AFP ■

Trudeau future on the line as Canadians vote in pandemic election

CANADIAN elections headed for a photo finish Monday with liberal prime minister Justin Trudeau, who is seeking a third term, threatened by a strong challenge from rookie conservative leader Erin O’Toole.

Trudeau called the snap election hoping to parlay a smooth Covid-19 vaccine rollout — among the best in the world — into a new mandate to steer the nation’s pandemic exit, without having to rely on opposition party support to pass his agenda.

But the contest, after a bumpy five weeks of campaigning, appears set for a repeat of the close 2019 general election that resulted in the one-time golden boy of Canadian politics clinging to power, yet losing his majority in parliament. A sudden surge in Covid-19 cases led by the Delta variant late in the campaign, after the lifting of most public health measures this summer, has also thrown a wrench into the works.

At 49, Trudeau has faced tougher bouts and come out unscathed.

But after six years in power, his administration is showing signs of fatigue, and it’s been an uphill battle for him to convince Canadians to stick with his Liberals after falling short of high expectations set in his 2015 landslide win. “The main ballot box question at the start of this campaign was whether the Liberals deserved to have a majority government,” said Daniel Beland, a politics professor at McGill University in Montreal. “But now the question is whether they deserve to stay in power.” Going into the final stretch, the two main political parties that ruled Canada since its 1867 confederation were neck and neck with about 31 per cent of voting intentions each and four smaller factions nipping at their heels. — AFP ■

Virus-hit Fiji to reopen borders for tourists

FIJI plans to reopen for international tourists by November, aiming to rebuild a pandemic-devastated economy while battling a Delta-variant coronavirus outbreak.

“Our goal is to free our country — and our economy — from the rut of the pandemic,” Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama said in a statement last week.

Once 80 per cent of Fiji’s eligible population is vaccinated, it will offer quarantine-free travel to visitors from a “green list” of locations.

Of Fiji’s eligible population, 66 per cent is now fully vaccinated and Bainimarama predicts the country’s target will be met by 1 November.

Fiji’s green list includes Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, Korea, Singapore and parts of the United States.

Visitors would need to be fully



(FILES) This file photo taken on 20 November 2019 shows tourist enjoying a beach at a resort at Natadola Bay in Fiji. Fiji plans to reopen for international tourists by November, aiming to rebuild a pandemic-devastated economy while battling a Delta-variant coronavirus outbreak. **PHOTO: AILEEN TORRES-BENNETT / AFP**

ly vaccinated and test negative for Covid-19 prior to departure. Once in Fiji, they would stay

in designated zones where all contacts, from hospitality staff to tour operators, would be fully

vaccinated.

Reviving tourism, which government figures estimate

accounts for 40 per cent of Fiji’s economy, is seen as crucial to containing rising poverty in the nation of under one million people.

But the main opposition, the Social Democratic Liberal Party (SODELPA), has criticized the plans.

“We have got to have our priorities right — health first over the economy,” SODELPA leader Bill Gavoka told Radio New Zealand. “I don’t believe Fiji is ready.”

Former Health Minister Neil Sharma said high vaccination rates would not stop the virus from spreading.

“If you look at vaccination, all it does is prevent an individual from ending up in hospital and/or the mortuary,” he told AFP.

“You can still acquire and transmit the virus so it’s not a guarantee,” he added. — AFP ■

Climate shocks forced over 100,000 to flee home in Burundi: charity

NATURAL disasters sparked by climate change have forced more than 100,000 people to flee their homes in Burundi in recent years, British charity Save the Children said in a new report released on Monday.

It said climate shocks — not conflict — were now the main cause of internal displacement in the landlocked East African country, which has a largely rural population.

“Over 84 per cent of all internally displaced people in Burundi... have been displaced due to natural disasters rather than conflict, mostly due to the rise of Lake Tanganyika, Africa’s second-largest lake,” the charity said.

Children have been particularly hard-hit, it said, adding: “An estimated 7,200 of the displaced people — or 7 per cent of the total number — are babies under the age of one.”

Older children are unable to attend school, with many surviving on just one meal a day, the charity said.

Arielle, a teenager whose home was swallowed up in the middle of the night by the lake’s rising waters, told Save the Children she struggled to eke out a living, earning \$1.20 (one euro)

a day for carrying and stacking bricks.

“I eat most days, but some days I miss meals altogether,” the 17-year-old said.

‘A gross injustice’

Displaced farmers told the organization that flooding disasters had intensified in recent years.

“The situation with flooding has become worse than it used to be. This time, the flood came over everything and never went back,” said Marie, a mother-of-three.

“I fear the children are going to die from hunger.”

Maggie Korde, the charity’s country director for Rwanda and Burundi, warned: “The world seems to have forgotten Burundi, and yet it’s bearing the brunt of global climate change, with children the most affected.

“We are seeing families that previously had solid homes, all children in school, and two working parents, reduced to living in tents with no employment, no food, and kids having to work for a dollar a day to support their family,” she said. “This is a gross injustice for a community that has already experienced so much hardship.” — AFP ■

Johnson cautious over fulfilling UN climate fund pledges

FORCING wealthy nations to honour their UN climate fund pledges this week will “be a stretch”, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson admitted ahead of a Monday meeting with global leaders aiming to do just that.

At the 2009 Copenhagen climate conference, rich nations promised to provide annual funding of \$100 billion from 2020, for poorer nations to counteract the effects of climate change.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has said progress has been “disappointing”, with developing countries receiving \$79.6 billion in 2019.

“I think getting it all done this week is going to be a stretch,” Johnson told reporters as he travelled to New York on Sunday to attend the UN General Assembly (UNGA), according to PA news agency.

He added that he saw the chances of getting it done before COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in November as “six out of 10”.

“It’s going to be tough but people need to understand that this is crucial for the world,” he said.



Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson wearing a protective face covering, attends a service of Thanksgiving and Rededication to commemorate the 81st Anniversary of the Battle of Britain at Westminster Abbey in central London on 19 September 2021. **PHOTO: JULIAN SIMMONDS / POOL / AFP**

He added that there were “real signs of progress” from China, the world’s biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, even as COP26 president Alok Sharma said Sunday that Chinese President Xi Jinping had not yet confirmed his attendance at the conference.

Johnson will convene Monday’s meeting of leaders along with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

“We only have a short time left. World leaders must deliver on their climate commitments ahead of @COP26,” Johnson said in a tweet.

The UN climate fund is

the main financing tool for the Paris Agreement, which calls for capping the rise in global temperatures at “well below” two degrees Celsius, and 1.5 C if possible.

The treaty calls for billions of dollars annually for poor nations already coping with floods, heatwaves, rising seas and superstorms made worse by climate change. As well attending the UNGA, Johnson will visit the White House on his trip, days after the announcement of a new US-Australia-Britain security pact caused a deep rift with ally France. — AFP ■

Evergrande contagion fears hit Hong Kong stocks, with default expected



This aerial photo taken on 17 September 2021 shows the halted under-construction Evergrande Cultural Tourism City, a mixed-used residential-retail-entertainment development, in Taicang, Suzhou city, in China's eastern Jiangsu province. PHOTO: VIVIAN LIN / AFP

FEARS of contagion from the potential collapse of battered Chinese real estate giant Evergrande sent property shares plunging in Hong Kong on Monday, with the firm expected to default on upcoming interest payments this week.

The firm, one of the country's biggest developers, is on the brink of collapse as it wallows in debts of more than \$300 billion.

With the property sector accounting for more than a quarter of Chinese GDP, there are concerns of a spillover into the domestic and global economy.

The crisis has triggered rare protests outside the company's offices in several Chinese cities by investors and suppliers demanding their money — some of whom claim they are owed as much as \$1

million.

Adding to the anger, it emerged at the weekend that six top executives would face "severe punishment" for redeeming financial products before telling retail investors that the firm could not pay them on time.

The firm said they must return the cash they redeemed "within a time limit", adding that its investment arm must "strictly follow the announced repayment plan to ensure fairness and impartiality". The crisis sent shares in the firm diving around 17 per cent Monday, leaving it down around 90 per cent from the start of the year.

Other property firms were also in the firing line, with Henderson Land losing 13.2 per cent and New World Development more

than 12 per cent. Sun Hung Kai Properties shed 10.3 per cent. Sinic Holdings called a trading halt after its shares crashed 87 per cent — wiping out \$1.3 billion from chairman Zhang Yuanlin's wealth, leaving him with \$250 million, according to Forbes.

Meanwhile, insurance giant Ping An fell nearly six per cent. China Minsheng Bank, Agricultural Bank of China and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China were all down around three to six per cent.

The dash for the exit left the Hang Seng Index down more than four per cent.

Analysts say a lack of comment from Beijing and a holiday in China are only adding to the uncertainty.

Philip Tse, of BOCOM International Holdings,

warned "there will be further downside" unless leaders give a clear signal on Evergrande or ease up on their clampdown on the real estate sector.

Attention is now on the company's repayments, with interest due on bank loans Monday and two bonds on Thursday.

Debt mountain

However, one creditor quoted by Chinese financial outlet Caixin Global Monday estimated that there is a "99.99 per cent" chance Evergrande will not be able to pay interest due in the third quarter.

As of the end of June, the property developer had total liabilities of almost 2 trillion yuan (\$309 billion) — roughly equivalent to two percent of China's GDP — with an unknown amount of off-sheet debt.

The giant debt mountain helped drive Evergrande's voracious expansion, which started with a 1990s property boom and lasted until Beijing moved to trim leveraged growth in the sector by introducing curbs in 2020.

While predominantly a real estate firm, the group also embarked on an all-out diversification, buying football club Guangzhou FC, opening amusement parks, setting up Evergrande Spring mineral water and also investing in tourism, digital operations, insurance, and health. — AFP ■

European stocks dive at open after Asia selloff

EUROPE'S main stock markets sank in opening deals on Monday after a vicious selloff in Asia, as fears grew over a possible collapse of debt-laden property giant China Evergrande.

London's benchmark FTSE 100 index lost 1.0 per cent to 6,894.33 points, compared with Friday's closing level. In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 40 dropped 1.9 per cent to 15,202.28 on the first day that the index was expanded from 30 to 40 companies.

And the Paris CAC 40 slid almost 1.7 per cent to 6,461.07 points. Sentiment was also affected by the Federal Reserve's plans to taper monetary policy, surging Delta infections, elevated inflation, and signs of weakness in the global recovery. — AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

L'Oreal, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of France, and having its principal office at 14 Rue Royale, 75008 Paris, France, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

WANTED

Reg. No. 4/14436/2015

The above Trademark is used in respect of "Perfumes; Eau de parfum; toilet water; Eau de Cologne; cosmetic preparations for bath or shower, namely shower gel for non-medical use, foaming baths, bath oils and bath salts; perfumed soaps; cosmetic creams and lotions; deodorants for personal use; cosmetics; perfumed body milks and lotions for cosmetic use; shampoo; hair lotions; scented body sprays; shaving soaps; after-shaving lotions; after-shaving balms." in Class 3.

This trademark was initially registered in the name of Loris Azzaro B.V.. Ownership of this trademark was then transferred to Azzaro Beaute S.A.S., and subsequently transferred to L'Oreal. Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademark or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Aye Tha Zin Myo (H.G.P)

For L'OREAL

c/o Baker & McKenzie Limited

Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower, No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Dated: 21 September 2021

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (135S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (135S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (227N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (227N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HADDOCK VOY.NO. (139N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HADDOCK VOY.NO. (139N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-9-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Philippines to reopen 120 schools for in-person classes

THE Philippines will reopen up to 120 schools for limited in-person classes for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in a pilot approved by President Rodrigo Duterte, officials said Monday.

While nearly every country in the world has already partially or fully reopened schools for face-to-face lessons, the Philippines has kept them closed since March 2020.

“We have to pilot face-to-face (classes) because this is not just an issue for education, it’s an issue for the children’s mental health,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque told reporters.

“It’s also an issue for the economy because we might lose a generation if we don’t have face-to-face (classes).”

Under guidelines approved by Duterte Monday, up to a hundred public schools in areas considered “minimal risk” for virus transmission will be allowed to take part in the two-month trial.



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 3 March 2021 registered teachers wearing face masks and shields against Covid-19, conduct a teleconferencing with struggling students helping them in their school lessons through online distant learning at a local government-sanctioned online tutorial class in Taguig City, south of Manila. The Philippines will reopen up to 120 schools for limited in-person classes for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in a pilot approved by President Rodrigo Duterte, officials said on 20 September 2021. **PHOTO: TED ALJIBE / AFP**

Twenty private schools can also participate.

Classrooms will be open to

children in kindergarten to grade three, and senior high school, but the number of students and

hours spent in face-to-face lessons limited. Schools wanting to take part will be assessed for

their preparedness and need approval from local governments to reopen. Written consent from parents will be required.

“If the pilot class is safe, if it is effective, then we will gradually increase it,” said Education Secretary Leonor Briones.

Duterte rejected previous proposals for a pilot reopening of schools for fear children could catch Covid-19 and infect elderly relatives.

But there have been growing calls from the UN’s children fund and many teachers for a return to in-person learning amid concerns the prolonged closure was exacerbating an education crisis in the country.

It is not clear when the pilot will begin or which schools will be included. A “blended learning” programme, which involves online classes, printed materials and lessons broadcast on television and social media, will continue. — AFP ■

Australia to mull buying, leasing existing subs from US, Britain

AUSTRALIA will consider leasing or buying existing submarines from the United States or Britain while its own fleet of nuclear-powered subs is being built, Defence Minister Peter Dutton told local media on Sunday.

His remarks came just days after Australia entered into a surprise regional security partnership with the two countries in an apparent effort to counter China’s assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region, paving the way for it to obtain nuclear-powered submarines.

But these will reportedly not be ready for deployment until the late 2030s.

Asked on Sky News’ Sunday Agenda programme whether the government would consider leasing or buying existing submarines from the United States or Britain in the interim, Dutton said amid a visit to Washington, “The short answer is yes”.

“There is all of that discussion to take place in the next 12 to 18 months,” he said, adding, “The talk that you can just buy a nuclear-powered submarine off the shelf, of course, is just not accurate or correct, and I think most people realize that.”

The first initiative under

the new partnership will feature an 18-month effort to identify an “optimal pathway” for Australia to acquire nuclear submarines for its navy, according to a statement issued by the leaders of the three countries last Thursday.

The Australian government has said it envisions the delivery of “at least eight” such submarines as part of that effort.

Australia’s decision has caused a stir in the region, with China saying the move has “intensified the arms race and undermined international nuclear nonproliferation efforts.”

The scrapping of the \$90 billion diesel submarine deal between Australia and France has prompted the European nation to recall its ambassadors from Australia and the United States.

Dutton told Sky News he understands why the French are upset, but said the government had to act in Australia’s national interest.

“Given the changing circumstances in the Indo-Pacific, not just now but over the coming years, we had to make a decision that was in our national interest, and that’s exactly what we’ve done,” he said. — Kyodo ■

German chancellor candidate to be grilled in fraud probe

GERMAN lawmakers will Monday quiz Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, the front-runner in the race to succeed Angela Merkel as chancellor, over an investigation into an anti-money laundering agency overseen by his ministry.

Scholz’s appearance before the German parliament’s finance committee comes less than a week before Germans go to the polls in national elections on 26 September.

MPs from opposition parties will have the opportunity to ask Scholz questions via video link after the finance and justice ministries were



German Finance Minister, Vice-Chancellor, and the Social Democratic Party’s (SPD) chancellor candidate Olaf Scholz (L) poses with a supporter after addressing a rally in Munich, southern Germany, on 18 September 2021, a week ahead of Germany’s federal elections on 26 September. **PHOTO: ANDREAS GEBERT / POOL / AFP**

raided by prosecutors on 9 September as part of a probe into

the Cologne-based Financial Intelligence Unit (FTU). — AFP ■

France vents over submarines but alone on world stage

CHOOSING a full-fledged confrontation with the United States due to the loss of a mega-contract for submarines for Australia, France is making a risky bet and other nations are not rushing to its defence.

After Australia renounced its deal for conventional submarines in favour of US nuclear-powered ones, France took the extraordinary step of pulling

its ambassadors from both Washington and Canberra for consultations.

Bertrand Badie, an international relations professor at the Sciences Po institute in Paris, said France had put itself in a position where it can only appear to be backing down or losing face once its ambassador returns to the United States, its historic ally. “When you get into a crisis

like this, you better know where the exit is,” he said. Australia said it decided that nuclear submarines were a better choice to ensure its maritime edge as it announced a new three-way alliance with the United States and Britain widely seen as aimed at China — whose rise has been the overriding priority of US President Joe Biden’s administration. — AFP ■

Philippine boxing legend Pacquiao launches presidential bid

PHILIPPINE boxing legend, national hero and politician Manny Pacquiao announced Sunday his plan to run for president in the May 2022 election.

Pacquiao announced his candidacy during a meeting of a rival faction of President Rodrigo Duterte's ruling PDP-Laban party in Quezon City.

The announcement by the eight-division world boxing champion comes weeks after he lost a professional fight against Yordenis Ugas of Cuba in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao, 42, has been a senator since 2016. He previously served two terms in the House of Representatives.

"I am a fighter and I will always be a fighter inside and

outside the ring," Pacquiao was quoted by ABS-CBN News as saying after accepting nominations from around 20 PDP-Laban chapter leaders.

He vowed that he would fight poverty and corruption if elected president, saying Filipinos have waited too long to see progress.

Duterte will not be running for reelection because the Constitution limits the position of president to a single six-year term.

But there has been speculation that his eldest daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio, the mayor of Davao City, might run. He himself has said he will run as his political party's candidate in the vice-presidential race. — Kyodo News ■



This handout photo taken on 19 September 2021, courtesy of the office of Philippine Senator Koko Pimentel shows Philippine boxer-turned-politician Manny Pacquiao (L) gesturing during the PDP-Laban national assembly in Manila. **PHOTO:OFFICE OF PHILIPPINE SENATOR KOKO PIMENTEL / AFP**

Laos locks down capital as Covid cases hit record high

RECLUSIVE Laos has locked down its capital Vientiane and barred travel between Covid-hit provinces, as cases soared to a record high.

The communist country appeared to have escaped the brunt of the pandemic in 2020, and by March this year had reported fewer than 60 cases — though the low number was due in part to limited testing.

But a surge since mid-April has seen its caseload steadily increase, and on Saturday the

country reported 467 new cases of community infection, its highest ever single-day tally.

The mayor of Vientiane, where the bulk of the cases were detected, declared a strict lockdown on Sunday for two weeks, ordering residents to stay in their homes unless obtaining food, medicine or making their way to a hospital.

Travel between seven other hard-hit provinces is banned, while entry into Vientiane requires a quarantine of 14 days.

All public gatherings — even religious ceremonies — are also banned, as are activities including outdoor exercise and selling street food, according to state-run media KPL.

The surge in cases over the weekend was linked to fresh clusters found in the country's garment factories, with the bulk of workers infected with the highly contagious Delta strain.

Laos has so far recorded a total of 19,399 cases and 16 deaths.

According to the country's health ministry, it has administered more than 4.5 million vaccine doses — mostly Sinopharm donated from neighbouring China and the Pfizer-BioNTech jab obtained via the Covax programme for low-income countries.

State-run media reported that any violation of Vientiane's lockdown would result in a fine of three million kip (\$310) — a punishing fee in a country where the annual income per capita is about \$2,600. — AFP ■

N Korea says US submarine deal, alliance could trigger 'nuclear arms race'

NORTH Korea's foreign ministry on Monday said a new US alliance in the Indo-Pacific and Washington's recent submarine contract with Australia could trigger a "nuclear arms race" in the region.

Last week the US announced a new three-way security pact with Australia and Britain, as part of a strategic partnership under which American nuclear submarines will be supplied to Canberra.

"These are extremely undesirable and dangerous acts which will upset the strategic balance in the Asia-Pacific region and trigger off a chain of nuclear arms race," North Korean state media KCNA quoted a foreign ministry official as saying.

"This shows that the US is

the chief culprit toppling the international nuclear non-proliferation system," they added.

Nuclear-armed North Korea fired two missiles into the sea last Wednesday, with Seoul successfully test-firing a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) hours later, becoming only the seventh country in the world with the technology.

South Korea's test is a strategic advance for Seoul. It has been strengthening its military capabilities to counter the threat posed by the North, which is under international sanctions for its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

But in a separate statement carried by KCNA on Monday, the chief of North Korea's defence sci-

ence agency called Seoul's newly developed SLBM a "clumsy piece of work" lacking key technology.

"The homegrown SLBM unveiled by South Korea will not be able to serve as an effective means of attack at war," he said.

The spate of missile tests and bumper defence deals in the Pacific have highlighted a regional arms race that is intensifying as a China-US rivalry grows.

"It is quite natural that neighbouring countries including China condemned these actions as irresponsible ones of destroying the peace and stability of the region," the North Korean foreign ministry official said.

US President Joe Biden's new Australia-US-Britain defence alliance is widely seen as

aimed at countering the rise of China.

His administration's relationship with North Korea has marked a change in tone from his predecessor Donald Trump, who engaged in an extraordinary diplomatic bromance with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"The US double-dealing attitude getting all the more pronounced after the emergence of the new administration — seriously threatens the world peace and stability," the North Korean ministry official said.

The official added that North Korea "will certainly take a corresponding counteraction in case it has even a little adverse impact on the security of our country". — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia's ruling party says won two-thirds majority in election

RUSSIA'S ruling United Russia party said Monday that it had won a two-thirds majority in parliamentary polls that the opposition says were rigged.

United Russia's general council secretary Andrei Turchak told reporters the party would win 120 seats from the party list and 195 single-mandate seats after the three-day election that ended on Sunday, giving it 315 in the 450-member chamber.

Turchak said the party had won a "convincing and clean victory" and had not seen any significant violations during the polls.

He said United Russia had also won in local legislative polls in 39 regions.

The parliamentary and local elections were held following an unprecedented crackdown on the opposition including the imprisonment of top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. — AFP ■

Auckland extends Covid-19 lockdown

NEW Zealand's largest city Auckland will remain in a Covid-19 lockdown for at least another two weeks, although some restrictions will be eased, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Monday.

Ardern said the city of two million would move down to level three on New Zealand's four-tier coronavirus response system by late Tuesday, even as authorities remain committed to eliminating a Delta-variant outbreak.

"We're moving now because the advice we have is that we do not have widespread, undetected transmission in Auckland," she told reporters. "If everyone continues to play their part, we can continue stamping out (the virus)." The change means stay-at-home orders will remain in place but some businesses, such as takeaway food outlets, can open using contactless delivery. New Zealand imposed a nationwide lockdown on 17 August when the first case of the highly transmissible Delta variant was found in the community. — AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the

economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

ASEAN football body to hold virtual drawing of lots event for Suzuki Cup today

THE ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) announced this week that a virtual event will be held for the official drawing of lots event of the AFF Suzuki Cup which will take place on 21 September (today).

“The draw will be hosted as a virtual event for the first time in AFF Suzuki Cup history,” of-

ficials said.

“As the ASEAN region continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, AFF has decided that for the safety and wellbeing of all involved, the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 Official Draw will take place virtually from a studio, with the majority of the AFF Member Associations

and all stakeholders joining the proceedings remotely from their respective countries,” ASEAN football officials added.

AFF President, Major-General Khiev Sameth, said, “The safety of everyone involved in the AFF Suzuki Cup 2020 is our top priority and we cannot compromise on the health of

our teams, partners and stakeholders during these uncertain times. As such, we have decided to host the Official Draw as a virtual event. We feel it is important to proceed with the draw to give teams clarity on their tournament groupings and opponents so as to better prepare for the tournament taking place

at the end of the year. We can't wait to see how the draw pans out, and the action that will unfold in a couple of months.”

Fans across ASEAN can watch the proceeding live on the following channels and platforms including Social Media platforms of AFF Suzuki Cup. — GNLM

FIFA to consult national FAs on biennial World Cup plans 30 September

FIFA has invited football's domestic governing bodies to an online summit on 30 September to discuss its controversial proposal to hold the World Cup every two years instead of four.

The topic is set to be discussed with FIFA's member associations as part of plans to reform the international calendar.

“There is a broad consensus within the game that the international match calendar should be reformed and improved,” FIFA said in a statement Monday.

“Following invitations to stakeholders, including all confederations, at the beginning of September, discussions are being organized in the coming weeks.

“FIFA also invited its member associations to a first online summit on 30 September 2021. This is one of several opportunities to establish a constructive and open debate,

at a global and regional level, over the coming months.”

The proposal for a biennial World Cup was revived in March by former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, now head of global football development at FIFA.

The idea would be to have an international tournament each year from 2025-2026, alternating World Cups and continental tournaments like the European Championship and Copa America.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin is fiercely opposed to the proposal and threatened that European nations would boycott a biennial World Cup. South American confederation CONMEBOL said the project had “no sporting justification”.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has promised decisions on staging a World Cup every two years would be made by the end of the year. — AFP ■

AC Milan stalemate piles on misery for Juventus



Juventus' Spanish forward Alvaro Morata (L) scores a goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Juventus and AC Milan at the Juventus stadium in Turin, on 19 September 2021. PHOTO: ISABELLA BONOTTO / AFP

JUVENTUS were left struggling in the unlikely surroundings of Serie A's bottom three on Sunday after a 1-1 draw with AC Milan kept them searching for a first league win this season.

Alvaro Morata's fourth-minute goal gave Juve the lead but Ante Rebic headed in a 76th-minute equalizer as Milan ended the weekend in second place on goal differ-

ence behind city rivals Inter who crushed Bologna 6-1 on Saturday.

Milan could have won the match in the dying moments but Juve keeper Wojciech Szczesny pulled off a brilliant point-blank save to deny Pierre Kalulu.

Juventus, still reeling from the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo to Manchester United, are 18th with just two points from

four games with only Cagliari and Salernitana propping them up. Coach Massimiliano Allegri had harsh words for some of his stars.

“You have to be determined, to bring home the tackle, keep focused. This is part of the general growth process of some players,” he said.

“I will admit that I made mistakes on the substitutions, I got it wrong. I should've put more defensive players on and put the 1-0 lead under lock and key, so I take responsibility for that.” Milan, missing both Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Olivier Giroud, dropped their first league points of the season.

However, they will be relieved not to have lost back-to-back games having gone down to Liverpool in the Champions League in midweek.

Spanish international Morata temporarily allowed Juventus fans to forget about Ronaldo when he sped away from Theo Hernandez before coolly slotting the ball past Mike Maignan in goal. — AFP ■